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23 March 1960

- ~~FEW HOURS BEFORE AMB. BONSAI'S~~  
I. ~~Ambassador Bonsai got cool official welcome on~~ return 20 March.
- A. ~~Few hours before his arrival,~~ "Che" Guevara publicly warned that Cuba faces "economic war" with US.
- B. Later on same day President Dorticos made his strongest attack to date on US and ~~publicly~~ accused the US of being responsible for the La Coubre explosion.
- C. Forcing down of small plane from Florida on 21 March provided additional theme for symphony of abuse: within hours, government radios were shouting "another aggression."
- II. Though Castro still strongly in control, opposition becoming more outspoken, particularly on Communist issue.
- A. Autentico organization of ex-President Prio issued strong attack on Communism 14 March.
1. Called Cuban Communists as grave a threat to the revolution as the counterrevolutionaries.
  2. But at same time reiterated support for the revolution which it saw threatened by "imperialism."
- B. At least one student group is reported planning anti-Communist demonstration later this week to test limits to which government will go in suppressing anti-Communist activity.
- III. Meanwhile, Castro continues on same radical course.
- A. In addition to 1,300 "people's stores" said to have been formed by INRA in rural areas <sup>(IN OCTOBER,)</sup> five such government-operated markets are said to be operating now in Havana.

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1. Spread of "people's stores" to cities is in line with Castro's reported statements last autumn: "First we take the countryside; then we get control of the cities."

B. Over 80 radio and TV stations are being formed into government-controlled chain, Independent Front of Free Transmitters.

1. Many of announcers are Communist-tinged, and output favors Communist line.

2. Network may expand to Mexico, Venezuela, possibly Panama.

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C. [REDACTED] Cuba has offered asylum to former Guatemalan Communist boss during Arbenz regime, Jose Manuel Fortuny (who is now in Brazil).

IV. This week is "Week of Solidarity with the Struggles of the Latin American People," declared by Communist-infiltrated Cuban labor confederation and warmly endorsed by Communist party.

A. Chinese Communists giving strong support; Peiping radio reports mass rally of 10,000 in Peiping on 19 March in support of "the Latin American people's national and democratic movement and the Cuban people's struggle against US imperialist aggression."

1. Rally, addressed by Chou En-lai and other leading Chinese figures, was first manifestation of the "China-Latin America Friendship Association" formed in Peiping on 16 March.

B. Special meetings in Cuba have attacked Dominican, Nicaraguan, and Paraguayan regimes and emphasized the "struggles of the people of Puerto Rico."

C. Cuban labor confederation is preparing to send delegates to May Day celebrations in Moscow, Peiping, and Prague.

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